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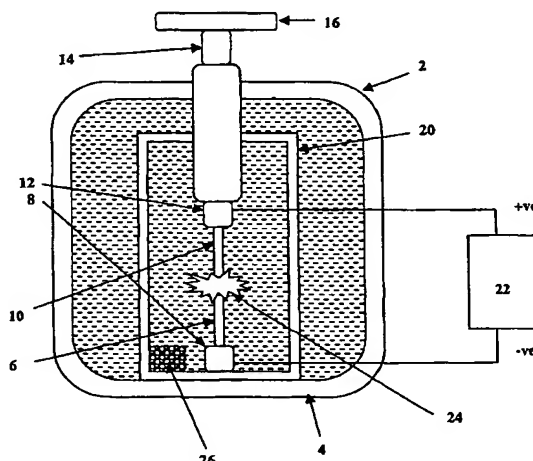
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(54) Title: POWDER AND COATING FORMATION METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for the production of submicron particles (26) and comprises the steps of: (i) placing first and second electrodes, (6, 10) in a volume of coolant, such that the electrodes (6, 10) are mutually spaced, (ii) passing an electrical current across the electrodes to generate an electrical arc (24) between them, (iii) maintaining a stable arc (24) by controlling the relative spacing between the two electrodes (6, 10) to melt or evaporate and separate material from at least one of the electrodes (6, 10) such that droplets of said material are formed, and (iv) quenching said droplets to form said submicron particles (26) of the material in the coolant. The invention also relates to a powder coating method and to an apparatus for performing the methods of the invention.